
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 5

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA

Sunday, November 12, 1989
Eddie Graham Sports Complex
Orlando, FL

I'd like to welcome everyone to another edition of "Arena Report". Hope everyone has had a nice three weeks. I've attended the last three PWF shows at Eddie Graham and all three reports are in this issue starting with the latest one I attended. You'll find the 11/5 report on page 3 and the 10/29 results in the "Ramblings" section. Also in this issue is a review on "Halloween Havoc" and since it's been over for a while, it's a short review as it's almost old news.

The next issue will come from Daytona Beach and the Ocean Center. The date is 11/27 with Savage-Duggan headlining. They pulled the Jake-DiBiase match off the card and replaced it with Ultimate-Andre. Gee, thanks. I'm sure part of the reason if not all of it was that they didn't want Jake back in the town where the incident took place so soon. Rockers meet the Hart Foundation on that card as well and that's worth it to me right there alone. That issue will also include a report on the 11/19 PWF show, a review of Survivors Series and the Sat.Night's Main Event from Turkey Day weekend. Vince is running in Lakeland on 12/2, only 6 days after the Daytona card. (They are two hours apart.) Piper-Rude is the main and that will be my Vol. 2, No. 7 issue. After that things are iffy as Cheryl and I are waiting to hear if our mortgage gets approved and if it does we'll be moving in at the end of the year which will make things very hectic. So either only 1 issue in Dec. or Jan., not sure yet. I'd like to tell you what the house looks like but it's not finished being built yet.

"Arena Report" comes out twice a month at the cost of 75¢ per issue. All subs, renewals, letters, and match reports may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe CT, #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. A number appears at the top left corner of your page indicating how many issues you have remaining on your subscription. Let's hit the home of the PWF in Orlando where they pack them in. (My nose is growing.)

Opening Match

"Gigolo" Jim Backlund beat Bodyguard Mark at 9:33. Mark is Keirn's bodyguard. You think they'd give him a last name. He's pretty green. At one point, he bent over to give Backlund a backdrop but forgot to lift up, thus Jimmy did all the work and did a somersault. Jim was thrown into the corner and he jumped up and got Mark in a headscissor and then pushed off and landed on top for the pin. Very clumsy. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

2nd Match

Billy Jack Haynes beat The Terminator via count out in 12:51. I guess Termie is sticking around awhile. Rev. Billy Wirtz now manages him. A cheap Bro Love imitation. Haynes really had the crowd pumped up. Even though he's no "Big" star, he's got some charisma here in Florida. Term left the ring and wouldn't come back. After he was counted out, Billy nailed Wirtz good and then brought Terminator back in and cleaned his clock. ** $\frac{1}{4}$

Florida Tag Team Championship

Lou Perez & Mark Starr won the Florida tag straps by defeating Jumbo Beretta & Dennis Knight in 12:50. Billy Wirtz manages this team too. Starr is from "Wildside" fame. He didn't get to show his stuff though as he got the snot beat out of him until he made the hot tag. Knight was holding Perez when Wirtz took his scepter and went to swing it at Lou but Perez had reversed the full nelson and Elmer Knight got hit and pinned. I've seen more live title changes in the three monthes I've been here than the rest of my career as a fan. **

Florida Heavyweight Championship

Steve Keirn retained the Florida belt by turning back the challenge of the Bounty Hunter in 16:35. Hunter is Big Al Greene. The good reverand manages him too. Awful bout ending with Keirn applying the sleeper and then pushing Bounty into buckles and rolloing him up. -*

Taped Fist Match

Mike Graham beat Kendall Windham via DQ in 10:54 as Ron Slinker interfered as Graham applied the figure four. Great heat and a wild blood bath. Graham is back in the ring due to an angle that aired on TV this weekend. He was out doing color for Kendall's match with jobber Larry Roberts when the ref took a bump. Mike went over to check on him and Windham clocked Mike with a chair drawing blood. Graham then gave a horrendous interview. Guy hasn't been in the business long enough I guess. Yeah, right. After Slinker ran in, out came Billy Jack and the place went nuts. **½

Notes

These guys are trying and although the crowd was only 132, at times it sounded like 3,000. They need to continue bringing in name talent or guys that Florida recognizes like Starr and Haynes... Looks like Slinker & Windham will headline next week vs. Graham & Haynes... Keirn has run out guys to defend against. He's beaten all the heels around. They have him booked vs. Starr in Winter Haven 11/22.

Ramblings

Can you tell that the NWA is not promoting this Dudes-Midnight feud the way they should be. It was going to be hard enough for the Dudes to get cheered but add the fact that they are saying Stan's girl left him for Johnny and it makes Ace look like the bad guy. Tune in nextweek for more of the NWA Turns.... Don't believe the Bill Watts in as NWA booker rumor. Jim Herd says what with TBS cracking down on violence and blood, it'd be ludicrous to bring in the cowboy... The Steiners won the tag belt (s) from the Freebirds last Wed. at Center Stage. It will air on the 18th. So the Birds will have the titles at the Clash against the Roadies. I wonder what the fans at those tapings will think?... WWF's PPV in December will consist of the movie and a steel cage affair with Savage & Zeus vs. Hogan & Beefcake. Look for Beefer to get creamed... Looking forward to seeing Buzz Sawyer in the NWA. Hope he can keep his act together... Listened to that Steamboat interview where he talked about why he left the NWA. Made me realize how much the NWA needs to get their priorities straight.... I'm not into this Starcade idea. I don't feel like watching the same wrestlers go at it all night.. Saw the World Class show where Eric Embry tears down the banner. I had a hard time with that. Granted the Von Erichs were never angels, but they were part of an era of Texas wrestling that will never be surpassed. To destroy the World Class name was an act of jealousy if you ask me. Embry knows

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PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA

Sunday, November 5, 1989

Eddie Graham Sports Complex
Orlando, FL

Opening Match

Ron Slinker beat Mike Awesome with a fisherman suplex in 8:28. Not good. Awesome is improving. He's a big strong kid and he hasn't been wrestling that long. Slinker's going the other way. Dud

2nd Match

Steve Keirn upended Jimmy Backlund in 9:34. Keirn came out and said Mark (his bodyguard) was stuck in traffic due to the Tampa Bay Bucs game, so not to let Jimmy down, he would wrestle him. They now refer to Backlund as "Gigolo" Jim. Almost as many aliases as Jack Victory. "Gator" had Jimbo in a sleeper when Backlund backkicked Steve in the groin. But Keirn kicked him in the mid-section and delivered a good piledriver to secure the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ * for end.

Caribbean Championship

Kendall Windham retained the title beating Tyree Pride in 7:39. A good flurry outside the ring with chops and postings. Kendall hit Tyree with a good chair shot which didn't faze Pride. (Funny, three weeks ago he lost the title after getting hit with a chair. Must have been practicing at home.) When they got back in the ring, KW scooped Pride's legs and used the corner buckle for leverage to garner the victory. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

4th Match

Lou Perez beat Jumbo Berretta in 15:04. Was supposed to be Florida tag title match with Brickhouse Brown as Lou's partner against Jumbo & Dennis Knight. Was announced that Knight couldn't make it. (I'm sure it was Brown who no showed.) Jumbo gave Lou a nice side slam and thought he won but Perez's foot was on the ropes and Lou came from behind and cradled Jumbo. *

Florida Heavyweight Championship

Steve Keirn retained the belt by defeating The Terminator in a no DQ match. Time was 13:16. I noted to someone next to me how stupid it was to have the champion wrestle twice. Some mark behind me, (No, it wasn't Keirn's bodyguard.) said, "That's because he's good. I'm in the middle of markdom. Someone please save me. This was Termie's farewell to Florida with his soon departure full time to the NWA. I give him alot of credit going out this way. Term threw Steve over the top rope but Keirn pulled himself back over and pushed Term into the ropes and rolled him up. Steve bled again. Wish you well in the NWA Terminator. ** Someone was telling Terminator that Ranger Ross and Cuban Assassin were looking for him after what happened on TBS. For those that didn't see it, get a copy. Att: 134

Halloween Havoc Review

1) Tom Zenk beat Mike Rotunda in 13:21 as Mike executed a cross body from the second rope but Z Man rolled over for the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 2) Samoan Swat Team & Samoan Savage beat Steve Williams & Midnight Express in 18:14. Doc was pumped. He looked better than I've seen him in a while. On the other hand, Stan Lane looked worse than I've seen. My fave match. I thought Fatu was Kokina at first with the added weight and the new doo. After Corny hit Hump with the racquet, Tonga hit Lane with a headbutt to his back sending him crashing into Cornette to set up the pin. Corny and

and Lane argued after but we at home didn't see it. Should have followed up on it. *** 3) Tommy Rich beat Cuban Assassin with Thesz press in 8:24. Fans booed throughout. Awful. -* 4) Freebirds beat Dynamic Dudes in 11:26. What a shock. The place went nuts for the Birds. This feud with the Midnights won't work the way the honchoes want it to. The Dudes had Garvin up for the wipeout but Hayes pulled Johnny's leg and Jimmy fell on Shane for the pin. We should take up a collection for the Birds so they can get a new belt. * 5) Doom beat The Steiners in 15:26. I know a clothesline is a clothesline but when Rick throws that "Steinerline", I pop big time. Woman put something in Doom Reed's mask and he headbutted Rick for the win. Doom doesn't do anything for me. * $\frac{1}{4}$ 6) Lex Luger downed Brian Pillman to retain the US Title in 16:43. First 10 minutes were so-so, then it picked up. After Brian missed a flying dropkick from the top rope, Luger gave him a great hot shot for the victory. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Road Warriors beat Skyscrapers via DQ when Teddy Long attacked with Norman's key at 11:36. Actually, he hit Ellerat and Dan Spivey used it on the Warriors. El Sid needs to learn how to sell. Maybe Doc will teach him the hard way. Good heat, thus a ** 8) Ric Flair & Sting beat Terry Funk & Great Muta in the Thunderdome match in 21:56. Bout was probably better live. Sting did a great dive from the top of the cage into the ring on Funk. End came as Ole Anderson hit Gary Hart and the towel fell onto Bruno Sammartino thus ending this fiasco. Good match but goofy gimmo. *** NOTES: Overall I have to give this a thumbs down. Other than the six man and Luger-Pillman, everything was flat. I think the upcoming Clash show will be better.

Correspondent Reports

London Arena

London, England

October 10, 1989

Correspondent: Matt Calder

1) Koko Ware beat Boris Zhukov in a snoozer at 10:00. D 2) Dino Bravo downed Bret Hart when Bret suplexed Dino back in the ring but Bravo rolled on top and used tights for the pin. B- 3) Hacksaw Duggan beat Honkey Tonk Man with the three point stance in 9:06. C 4) Rockers beat The Rougeaus in a great bout that went 24:20. Marty Jannetty hit Jacques in the back with the megaphone to set up the pin. A- 5) Brooklyn Brawler beat Paul Roma in 7:00. C- 6) Hulk Hogan beat Randy Savage in 14:10 after he got up from a Savage elbow, made the he-man come back and finished it with the leg bomb. Sherri interfered numerous times and got hit about the same amount, even by Liz. Att: 12,000 (sell out) They return next April. From all accounts, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Dallas Sportatorium

Dallas, TX

October 22, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Jimmy Jack Funk beat Sheik Scott Braddock in a quickie. 2) P.Y. Chu Hi beat Chris Adams in a country whipping match. Seven wrestlers were out on the floor with belts and they used them too. Chris had the pin but Billy Travis hit Adams in the back with the kendo stick and P.Y. got the win. 3) Ron Starr & Tarras Bulba went to a double count out with Jeff Jarret & Terry Gordy. Fast action and good brawling with everything used. 4) Eric Embry and Billy Travis went to a no contest as Akbar's goons interfered. What a surprise. 5) Gary Young downed Bill Dundee as the "Superstar" had Young pinned but the ref was out and Travis came down and slipped Gary a chain. The ref came to, counted three but Young had slipped the chain into Bill's boot and told the ref to check it. Ref found it and DQ'd Dundee. 6) Jerry Lawler retained his "undisputed" World Title by turning back Uncle Elmer when Travis comes down (again) and hits the hillbilly, knocking him out. 7) Kerry Von Erich beat The

Punisher to win the Texas Heavyweight Title. Bruce and his buddies drove 14 hours to see a World Class show. Bruce, I'd love you to move down. It would be great to have a full time Texas Correspondent.

Montreal Forum Montreal, Canada
Correspondent: Francois Lalonde

October 20, 1989

1) Tug Boat Tyler avalanched Brooklyn Brawler. ** 2) Lanny Poffo pinned Sam Houston after throwing him out of the ring. -*** 3) Ultimate Warrior beat Andre the Giant via DQ as Andre pushed the ref into Warrior. ** 4) Dino Bravo pinned Bret Hart using trunks. *** 5) Smash Demolition & Jim Neidhart beat The Brain Busters as Smash pinned Tully Blanchard. It was announced that Axe was injured. Brains had the belts (even though they had lost them) so shouldn't Smash & Neidhart be champs? *** 6) Curt Hennig beat Jimmy Snuka using tights. ** 7) Randy Savage beat Jim Duggan via count out as Sherri hit Hacksaw with the loaded purse. *

Springfield Civic Center Springfield, MA
Correspondent: Dan Reilly

October 28, 1989

The show started almost an hour late as the boys (most of them) were fogged in at Detroit. So alot of weird things happened at this card. 1) Randy Savage beat Hacksaw Duggan (Like the main event first.) in 23:00. Alot of heat and Sherri was involved alot. *** 2) Bushwhackers beat The Powers of Pain in 20:10 via DQ as Mr. Fuji interfered. Can you imagine watching this one go that long. Ugh. ½* 3) Nicolai Volkoff and Jose Luis Rivera went to a twenty minute draw. Bet everyone wished the other guys would hurry. This sounded painful. -* 4) Curt Hennig beat Jimmy Snuka in 16:50 as Curt stalled alot. Boring stuff. * 5) Bret Hart and Tim Horner went to a no decision as Horner got hurt legit in this bout and they had to stop the match. 6) Hercules pinned Akeem in 5:35 as the African Dream basically laid down for Herc. ½* 7) Ultimate Warrior beat Dino Bravo via count out in 6:13. Warrior treats his title like a piece of trash. Some bearhugs and a horribly missed move. * Att: 4,000

Madison Square Garden New York, NY
Correspondent: Elyse Zois

October 28, 1989

1) Tito Santana beat Boris Zhukov with a flying forearm. 2) Al Perez made his MSG debut a succesfull one as he pinned Conquistador #1. 3) Bret Hart went to a miserable twenty minute draw with Dino Bravo. I can't watch Bravo for one minute, how can you do it for twenty? 4) Brooklyn Brawler pinned Jose Luis Rivera (his second match since he rassled Perez earlier. 5) Randy Savage beat Hack Duggan with Scary's loaded purse. 6) Hercules defeated Akeem via count out. 7) Curt Hennig downed Jimmy Snuka with a perfect plex. 8) Ultimate Warrior ultimately humiliated Andre the Giant as he beat him in eight seconds in MSG. 9) Bushes beat Powers of Pain via DQ as Masser Fuji used the cane.

Omaha Civic Auditorium Omaha, NE
Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

November 2, 1989

1) Tugboat Thomas pinned Boris Zhukov in 9:18 of a clueless match. 2) Curt Hennig beat Jimmy Snuka with the perfect plex in 18:00. 3) Haku downed Tito Santana in 15:28 in what was mainly a battle of nerve holds. 4) Rick Rude beat Roddy Piper via DQ in 12:10. Fans littered the ring with garbage when Rude was introed. Piper threw Rick into the turnbuckle but also caught the ref leading to DQ. Afterwards, Roddy grabs a belt and whips the "Ravishing" one with it. 5) Bushwhackers beat Powers of Pain in 10:00 when Fuji interfered. 6) Lanny Poffo pinned Paul Roma with a

reverse cradle at 9:10. Poffo danced around like a dog in heat. Bruce's words, not mine. 7) Jake Roberts beat Ted DiBiase in 12:08 when the Snake DDT'd Virgil and when Ted charged, Jake ducked and cradled Ted. But DiBiase attacked Roberts and put him to sleep. Sounds different. Bruce got into it with Dave Hebner. No Bruce, I won't be attending Starcade. I had planned on it if it were on a weekend but boy do I want to attend a card with you. Att: 3,848

Erie Civic Center Erie, PA
Correspondent: John Lanigan

November 3, 1989

1) Canadian Earthquake (John Tenta) beat Mark Young with a Thesz sit down press at 3:09. It was reported in the paper the following morning that Young went to the hospital with hurt ribs. D- 2) Greg Valentine went to a twenty minute draw with Ron Garvin in 20:25. Garvin had the scorpion on when time ran out. It was also reported that Garvin went to the hospital with a possible broken leg. C 3) Ultimate Warrior pinned Andre the Giant in 16 seconds. D- 4) Rick Martel pinned Brutus Beefcake in 15:50 after Beefy did a sunset flip into the ring but Rick held the ropes and sat down for the pin. D+ 5) Hillbilly Jim beat Brooklyn Brawler at 6:54 in John's Clunker of the Year candidate. F 6) Hercules over Bad News Brown via DQ in 10:13 as Brown used Herc's chain to choke him. C- 7) Rockers beat Rougeau Brothers in best bout of the night. Ragus din't stall. Jacques gave Michaels a piledriver and waited for the ref to count. Marty came in and delivered a piledriver to Jacques and put Shaun on top for the pin. B Att: 5,024

Boston Garden Boston, MA
Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

November 11, 1989

1) Paul Roma defeated Mike Sharpe with a powerslam at 10:53. Sharpe subbed for Windham. 2) Curt Hennig perfect plexed Jimmy Snuka in 15:43. 3) Tugboat Thomas used an avalanche to cave in Brooklyn Brawler in 6:16. 4) Randy Savage beat Hacksaw Duggan in 12:28. Ref Fred Sparta took a bump and was down for about 5 minutes. Savage hit Duggan with a loaded purse but Hack kicked out at two. "Macho King" then used the ropes for leverage with Sherri holding his legs for the pin. 5) Dino Bravo pinned Jim Neidhart at 7:38 when Dino held on after an "Anvil" bodyslam attempt. 6) Demolition downed Arn Anderson & Haku in 12:26. It was announced that due to personal problems, Tully couldn't appear. Ax pinned Arn after a clothesline. 7) Jake Roberts beat Ted DiBiase via DQ as Virgil interfered at 13:46. They had a decent post match brawl complete with the DDT on Virgil followed by Damien. Att: 8,000

Letters To The Editor

Correction

Perhaps you read in the Observer that Tully & Arn wore the belts in Toledo the night after they lost them in Wheeling. Incorrect. Mike McGuirk clearly announced the title change early in the card--probably after the first week's TV show was in the can. Demolition wore the belts late in the taping session. Dave's source must have been standing in the line for the men's room. One men's room for 7,500 fans. Makes sense, right. What a pain in the kidney--spoken from personal experience. The other men's room was blocked off by the dressing room/staging area.

Mike Terry
Toledo, OH

The Honorable Harry White
I'm amazed at the number of times you've moved. It does clear up

one thing though. I have always wondered how bad jokes, rumors, and communicable diseases get spread around the country. Do you have a loser leaves town stipulation with local attorney generals when they shut down your unsavory business practices?

The letters section in "Arena Report" is quite provocative although I find it somewhat lacking in responses from fans in South Africa, Malaysia, and the Balboa countries.

With a serious response to Evan Ginzburg's serious letter, I agree with him totally about the WWF. I am glad I see his thoughts in print instead of listening to him verbally express himself in that awful Eastern accent that us midwesterners loathe so much.

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

Had To Be There

This is a true story: I was in a New York City comedy club awhile back and a comedian told the following joke:

"I like watching wrestling on TV. The only thing that bothers me is that I can always tell who is going to win. One guy always has the name like Iron Mike "The Hammer" Jones and his opponent's name is Eugene."

Me and one other person laughed. Everyone else looked at the poor guy like he was from a galaxy far, far. away.

Sorry your readers weren't there.

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

P.S. Jack Hammeroyd's letter objecting to my special ed joke was so hilarious and well written that I hoped to hell everyone realized that he and I were BOTH kidding. I don't want to win "Heel Letter Writer of the Year".

RL- Don't worry Evan, there are numerous people way ahead of you on that list.

Disliked The Havoc

Tell me it was not the NWA I was watching on October 28th. That show was messed up big time. But I'm totally pissed off at the NWA. I always gave them credit on their PPV's but this one was totally messed up. to the point I thought Superclash III was better than this garbage.

Ric Flair, please step down as booker! I'm beginning to wish Virgil was booking the darn promotion. At this point, I could care less what happens to the NWA. If it fails, they have no one to blame but themselves.

Some random thoughts: - I went to a WWF card two weeks prior to the NWA's PPV event and to tell you the truth I enjoyed the WWF card a whole lot better than the PPV.... Worse Gimmick of the Year: Electrified cage.... When are they going to get new tag belts, one of them has been gone for two to three months now... There was only two matches that deserved a grade of C and that was the six man and the Warriors-Skys match. All the others were D+ to No Grade at all.

Walt Marshall
Morrisville, PA

RL- Hey Walt, it wasn't the NWA you were watching on October 28. Well, you told me to tell you.

900 Numbers

I've been had and you are partially to blame. In a recent issue you plugged the Ken Patrea hot line--I dialed it just to see what gives and basically, it's our Olympic medal winner rehashing the Observer-- \$3.95

for a four minute call! He even makes mistakes in his reading and keeps going. I guess he's too busy defending the AWA belt to do a voice retake. I next called Bruno's 900 number to "chat" with fellow fans. After 2 minutes of meeting 11 year olds I opted to hang up- \$1.98 for 2 minutes. Such a deal!

These 900 numbers are nothing but ploys on young kids to get them to run up their parents phone bills. I sure wish the NWA would stop theirs. It's a big insult to everyone involved.

Ripped Off in Rhinelander

RL- Don't you have anything better to do in Rhinelander? Where the heck is that anyway? Is that part of the Balboa countries Harry was talking about?

(continued from page 2)

he'll never reach that status... St. Louis and Tampa are the front running cities for the NWA PPV "Wrestle War '90". You know I'll be jumping out of my seat if they choose Tampa... Congrats to "Arena Reporter" Al Devasto and his wife who just had twins. Better you than me buddy!.... 10/29 at Eddie Graham saw Tim Parker beat Rock Hard Rick $\frac{1}{2}$ *, Al Greene downed Mike Awesome $\frac{1}{2}$ *, Lou Perez & Brickhouse Brown over Jimmy Backlund & Dennis Knight. King Parsons was a no show **, Terminator over Steve Keirn via DQ as ref Micky Jay caught Keirn with knucks *, Kendall Windham won the Caribbean title from Ron Slinker ** $\frac{1}{2}$... A blurb in the basketball section of the Sunday Orlando Sentinel says, "Atlanta has called off it's experiment with 7-foot-6 Jorge Gonzalez of Argentina. He is now wrestling on WTBS, which is owned by Hawks owner Ted Turner." So if you see a huge jobber or someone huge win the title from Flair next week, it's this guy and it's Herd's idea... Jimmy-Joe Mullins (How many are there in this family anyway?) has an exclusive offer to "Arena Report" readers. He will send any new readers who write to him two free issues of his new bulletin called "Ring Worms & Roller Babes". I split a gut at the first few issues I've seen and if you don't crack a smile after reading it, you better go to the morgue. Mr. Mullins address is P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158...

Final Word

That does it for another round of this sheet. Thanks to all who have contributed. I have had a few inquiries as to whether or not I will do an annual and sorry to say, I won't. It'll be too hectic #1 with moving into the house and number 2, I'll leave that to the heavy hitters out there. I will offer you my picks for the year end awards however in one of the January issues. Until 11/27, words from the immortal Diamond Dallas Page.... Seeeeeee Yaaaaa!

Ron